THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The Drug Price Control Order, 1987 is being administered by the Department of Chemicals who are the implementing authority.

Use of Hydrocortisone eye drops

4124. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hydrocortisone eye drops cause irritation to the eyes and is therefore sparsely used;

(b) whether it is a fact that among the corticosteroids, Betamethasone and Dexamethasone eye drops are preferred;

(c) the total annual sales of Betamethasone and Dexamethasone eye preparations; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Betamethasone and Dexamathasone eye drops are extensively used in AIIMS, and Hydrocortisone eye drops are rarely used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Information is not monitored by the National Programme for Control of Blindness.

(d) The choice of the drug for treatment of a disease depends upon its nature, stage severity and judgement of the attending physician.

Carelessness on the part of Ministry's Representative recommending drugs for Category-II

4125. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the criterion of Kelkar Committee was that drugs having sales turn over of Rs. 50 lakhs or more are included in category-II;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to the negligence of his representatives more than 50 drugs are included in category-II in violation of the above criteria and over 100 drugs have been exclude;

(c) whether it is also a fact that public is suffering as a result of the above omission and commissions; and

(d) whether Government propose to make an inquiry into the matter;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) The Kelkar Committee was initially set up by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals for identification of Drugs under Category II of the Drug Prices Control Order, 1987, as per norms set by them. Discepancies noticed in categorisation of drugs under category II have already been brought to the notice of the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals.

Drugs for Trachoma Control Programme

4126. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total sales turn-over of Hydrocortisone drops during 1988 was Rs. 1.55 lakhs and that of Tetracycline Opthaimic Rs. 1 lakh, Aureomycin Rs. 0.39 lakhs and of Terramycin Rs. 132.57 lakhs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that inclusion of Hydrocortisone and Tetracycline for Tracoma Control Programme is an eye-wash to deceive the public;

(c) what are the reasons for ignoring the effective and widely used drugs; and

(d) what steps have been taken to enquire into the matter and fix the responsibility in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Information is not monitored by the National Programme for Control of Blindness.